

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4543

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJECT: NPG - NOVEMBER 12 PERMREPS MEETING ON POSTPONEMENT
OF HAMBURG NPG

REF: A. STATE 265519 DTG 081901Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

B. USNATO 6116 DTG 111200Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

C. STATE 267510 DTG 120038Z NOV 75 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AT NOVMEBER 12 MEETING, NPG PERMREPS AGREED TO POSTPONE
THE HAMBURG NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. FRG REP EXPRESSED DESIRE
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TO HOST THE MEETING AT A LATER DATE, BUT INDICATED THAT
FRG NEEDED DESIRE TO HOST THE MEETING AT A LATER DATE, BUT IN-
DICATED THAT FRG NEEDED ABOUT TWO MONTHS ADVANCE NOTICE. SYG
LUNS PROPOSED DATES OF JANUARY 15-16 FOR RESCHEDULING THE

MEETING. PERMREPS APPROVED PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING POSTPONE-
MENT. JANUARY 15-16 FOR RESCHEDULING THE MEETING.
ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON ACCEPTABILITY OF JANUARY
15-16 FOR RESCHEDULING THE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. AT NOVEMBER 12 MEETING OF NPG PERMREPS, SYG LUNS INVITED US
REPRESENTATIVE TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF HAMBURG
NPG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOV 20-21. CHARGE, DRAWING ON GUIDANCE
IN REF A, SAID THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE DESIGNATE RUMSFELD WOULD BE CONFIRMED BY THE
SENATE IN TIME TO LEAD THE US DELEGATION TO THE NPG
MEETING SCHEDULED IN HAMBURG. HE SAID THAT, GIVEN OTHER PERSON-
NEL CHANGES, THERE WERE NO OTHER SENIOR DOD OFFICIALS WHO
COULD SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON NUCLEAR POLICY TO SUBSTITUTE
AS HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION. HE NOTED THAT US ATTACHED GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO THE NPG, AND PARTICULARLY TO DIRECT PARTICIPA-
TION OF US SECDEF IN NPG MEETINGS. ACCORDINGLY, THE US WAS
PROPOSING A POSTPONEMENT OF THE HAMBURG MEETING. CHARGE ALSO
SAID THAT US APPRECIATED GREATLY THE EFFORTS WHICH THE FRG
HAD UNDERTAKEN TO SERVE AS HOST FOR THE MEETING, AND WAS
GRATEFUL AS WELL FOR THE WILLINGNESS OF FRG TO POSTPONE THE
MEETING.

2. KRAPF (FRG) EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF REASONS FOR US
PROPOSAL, WHICH HIS AUTHORITIES REGARDED AS UNDERLINING THE
IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH THE US VIEWED THE NPG. HE SAID HIS
AUTHORITIES HAD ALREADY INTERRUPTED PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING
IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER COSTS. HE SAID FRG WANTED TO HOST
THE MEETING AT A LATER DATE, BUT THAT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS
HIS AUTHORITIES REQUIRED ADVANCE NOTICE OF ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

3. LUNS EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION THAT FRG INTERRUPTION OF
ARRANGEMENTS MADE POSTPONEMENT A FAIT ACCOMPLI, AND QUESTIONED
WHY FRG COULDN'T HAVE WAITED TWO DAYS. KRAPF SAID FRG SAW
SITUATION WHEREIN, IF US COULD NOT PARTICIPATE, IT WAS NOT
USEFUL TO PROCEED WITH MEETING. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD HAVE
MADE CONSIDERABLE FINANCIAL DIFFERENCE TO HAVE DELAYED
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INTERRUPTION OF ARRANGEMENTS.

4. DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) TERMED RUMSFELDS PARTICIPATION
ESSENTIAL, AND SAID HE WAS CONVINCED IT WAS PREFERABLE
TO POSTPONE THE MEETING. HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT HIS NPG
COLLEAGUES FULLY SHARED THIS VIEW. HE THANKED FRG FOR HAVING
TAKEN THE NECESSARY STEPS.
HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE MONTH OF JANUARY WOULD BE AN IDEAL
TIME TO RESCHEDULE THE MEETING, AND NOTED THAT THIS WOULD ALLOW
THE TWO MONTHS ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED BY FRG. DE STAERCKE
CALLED ATTENTION TO PROBLEM OF ROTATING MEMBERS WHO RELINQUISH
THEIR SEATS ON NPG ON JANUARY 1 (BELGIUM AND DENMARK), AND
ASKED IF NPG WOULD AGREE TO "STOP THE VGOCK" SO THAT THEY COULD

PARTICIPATE IN A JANUARY MEETING. MENZIES (CANADA) AND HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) AGREED THAT ROTATION SHOULD BE DEFERRED, PROVIDED THAT OTHER ROTATING MEMBERS WERE NOT DEPRIVED OF THEIR FULL NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS DURING THE NEXT CYCLE. LUNS SAID THAT ROTATION SHOULD BE DEFERRED, AND THAT ALL NON PERMANENT MEMBERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE USUAL NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. OTHER PERMREPS INDICATED AGREEMENT TO POSTPONE THE HAMBURG MEETING. CHARGE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE COOPERATION OF NPG MEMBERS IN THE MATTER.

6. AT THE PERMREPS MEETING, LUNS PROPOSED DATES OF JANUARY 20-21 FOR RESCHEDULING THE HAMBURG MEETING, BUT SUBSEQUENTLY DISCOVERED THAT THESE DATES WERE NOT FEASIBLE DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS. AT SUBSEQUENT PERMREPS LUNCH, LUNS PORPOSED DATES OF JANUARY 15-16 AND PERMREPS OF COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AGREED TO FORWARD THESE DATES TO CAPITALS FOR APPROVAL.

7. PERMREPS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE PROPOSED BY SYG LUNS ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING, WHICH NATO PRESS SPOKESMAN TELEPHONED TO NEWS SERVICES AFTER THE PERMREPS MEETING. BEGIN QUOTE: THE MEMBERS OF NATOS NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP HAVE AGREED TO POSTPONE THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN HAMBURG, GERMANY ON NOVEMBER 20-21, 1975 IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE NEW UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. NO DECISION ON THE DATE FOR RESCHEDULING THE MEETING HAS YET BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKEN, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN GERMANY IN JANUARY.

END QUOTE. STREATOR

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To: STATE
SECDEF INFO BONN
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE
ANKARA
ATHENS
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
LONDON
OSLO
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